

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USICA WASHDC PRIORITY  
SECSTATE WASHDC 0685  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 08214

STATE FOR EUR/SOV

USICA FOR EU, VOA

PARIS FOR USICA DIRECTOR REINHARDT

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PROP, PFOR, UR  
SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA CRITICIZES AMERICAN NEWSMAN, TAKES  
SWIPE AT VOA

1. IN APRIL 18 "REPLIKA" COLUMN, IZVESTIYA RAN ARTICLE  
BY M. MIKHAYLOV ENTITLED "PROVOCATION INSTEAD OF  
INFORMATION" WHICH IS BASICALLY SHARP CRITICISM OF NEW  
YORK TIMES REPORT BY MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT CRAIG WHITNEY ON  
SOVIET-CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA (NYT PIECE WAS REPRINT-  
ED IN APRIL 15-16 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE). TASS  
CARRIED REPORT ON IZVESTIYA PIECE ON EVENING OF APRIL 18  
(ASSUME ADDRESSEES HAVE SEEN TASS ITEM).

2. TASS REPORT FAITHFULLY REPRODUCES IZVESTIYA'S ATTACK  
ON WHITNEY FOR ALLEGEDLY SPREADING "DISINFORMATION"  
REGARDING SOVIET INTENTIONS IN AFRICA. SOVIET SENSITIVITY  
ON THIS SCORE IS OBVIOUS, AND NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT  
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COMES IN FOR SOME POINTED AND PERSONAL CRITICISM (SUCH AS  
COMMENT THAT HE REPORTED FROM SAIGON DURING THE "AMERICAN  
AGGRESSION" AND OBSERVATION THAT HE "HAS  
LEARNED VERY LITTLE" ABOUT LIFE IN THE SOVIET UNION).

3. TASS ITEM MENTIONS BRIEF COMMENT ON VOA ("WHICH ONE  
MORE TIME SEIZED ON ONE MORE LIE") BUT MAKES NO MENTION

OF FINAL TWO PARAGRAPHS OF IZVESTIYA ARTICLE. FOR INFORMATION OF ADDRESSEES, THESE TWO PARAGRAPHS ARE TRANSMITTED HERewith IN FULL IN INFORMAL TRANSLATION: "AT THE BEGINNING OF APRIL, THERE TOOK PLACE IN WASHINGTON A CEREMONY INAUGURATING A NEWLY-CREATED AMALGAMATED AMERICAN PROPAGANDA SERVICE - THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AGENCY (UPRAVLENIYE PO MEZHDUNARODNYM SVYAZYAM). THE DIRECTOR OF THIS AGENCY, JOHN REINHARDT, MADE A LENGTHY SPEECH AT THIS CEREMONY, AND IN EACH PHRASE OF THIS SPEECH HE SWORE THAT AMERICAN PROPAGANDA WILL BE OBJECTIVE AND TRUTHFUL. THIS CASE WITH WHITNEY SHOWS FOR YET ONE MORE UNNECESSARY TIME HOW LITTLE SUCH VOWS ARE WORTH.

"IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO CLEAR UP YET ONE MORE MATTER. THE PROGRAM OF THE VOICE OF AMERICA IN WHICH WHITNEY'S PROVOCATORY REPORT WAS INCLUDED ENDED, AS USUAL, WITH WORDS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ITEMS BROADCAST 'DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.' IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW WHAT THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW IS ON THE FACT THAT THE MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT OF THE NEW YORK TIMES CONDUCTS HIMSELF, TO PUT IT MILDLY, IN AN UNWORTHY MANNER." TOON

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## Message Attributes

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